



Sounding

Newsletter of the South Shore Neptunes

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES, & REMINDERS

Calendar 2019-20

12/15 Club Dive, 9AM
12/17 Elections (There will be food), Newsletter assembly



•**ELECTIONS: TUESDAY, DEC. 17, 2019.** Your \$35 dues for 2020 **must** be paid by Election night to run for office or to vote.

2020

1/1 Sober Up Dive Pleasure Bay
& after party at Jay Theriault's
1/7 General Meeting
1/14 Board Meeting
1/18 Annual Awards Banquet,
\$33/pp
1/21/David Robinson, Director,
Mass Board of Underwater
Archaeologists, Newsletter
Assembly
2/4 General Meeting
2/11/ Board Meeting
2/18 Andy Martinez slide show
3/3 General Meeting
3/6 - 3/8 Boston Sea Rovers
Annual Clinic Danvers, MA
3/10 Board Meeting
3/17 Program Newsletter
4/2 General Meeting
4/9 Board Meeting
4/16 Ted Maney Salem State
(pending);Newsletter
5/7/ General Meeting
5/14 Board Meeting
5/16-23 Club Dive Trip -Bonaire
5/21 Program Newsletter
6/4 General Meeting
6/11 Board Meeting
6/18 Program Newsletter



•**Attention all Neptunes!!** Weds. Jan 1, 2020, will be our **64th** consecutive **Sober Up Dive** at **Pleasure Bay** in South Boston.

Meet us in the **Pleasure Bay parking lot at 9am, splash at 10.** Make this your first dive in our **2020 DIVE NEW ENGLAND YEAR-ROUND CHALLENGE.** In 2019, there were at least 5 Neptunes who completed the challenge and have earned the t-shirt. To complete the challenge you must make at least one dive per month (Jan. - Dec.2020) in New England waters. Sounds easy, right? Join us New Year's Day and earn your January dive!! If you need more information, please call or text the Neptunes hotline phone at **617-804-5637.** Don't forget to join us at the **after dive party,** beginning at **noon,** at Jay Theriault's (204 Ridgewood Rd, Milton, MA 02186, jtheriault@comcast.net)

South Shore Neptunes **ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

WHEN: *Saturday, January 18, 2020*

WHERE: *The Common Market*
97 Willard Street, Quincy, MA

Cocktails (*cash bar*): 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM

COST: \$33.00 per person

Please **RSVP** to a Club Officer or Board Member by
Tuesday, January 14, 2020

• **May 16 - 23, 2020, Bonaire Club Dive Trip:** Blackie reminded members he will be taking sign ups shortly for the club dive trip to Bonaire. Contact him at **781-826-2505** for details. Leave a message if he is not available.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CLUB ACTIVITIES & DIVES

The Berlin Cup - Underwater Rugby. Nov. 20 - 25. The Boston Narwhals (men) and the Connecticut Makos (women), the two underwater rugby teams representing the USA, traveled to Berlin in late November to compete for the Berlin Cup. Thirteen men's teams and women's teams, from many countries vied for the Cup in their respective divisions. For more information visit the Posts section on the club's Facebook Page or contact Jay Theriault at [<jtheriault@comcast.net>](mailto:jtheriault@comcast.net).

Dive & Snorkel Trip Western Caribbean, Nov. 2019. *Story and photos by Eric Cantor*

Before I get into my awesome dive in Aruba, let's start with the incredible snorkel trip that I planned many months ahead of time. What makes this snorkel trip so special is because I planned to ask my girlfriend to marry me!

It all started with having a large banner made that could be seen on the ocean floor from where we snorkeled. I then had to find a snorkel/dive company and tell them my secret plan, and make sure they were discrete on the day of our snorkel.

To cut the story short a little, we hopped on the snorkel/dive boat in Fort Lauderdale (*before we left*

for the Caribbean). My girlfriend had no idea what was about to happen! I secretly handed the staff my banner prior to getting on the boat, and the scuba divers jumped in the water before us (*the snorkelers*), and placed the banner on the ocean floor with weights about 20 feet down.



We then jumped in shortly after and started to snorkel a bit where eventually I called my girlfriend (Lauren) order to where I noticed the scuba divers had placed the banner. She looked below the clear blue water and was happy and surprised and even swallowed some water. I then placed a candy ring pop on her finger in the water and the fish started to attack her ([laugh here](#)). Lauren and I are now engaged!

As for my Aruba dive, it was pretty cool as well. The first dive spot was the Antilla shipwreck, an old German war vessel. The average depth was 50 feet, vis about 40-50 feet, water temp. 84°F. I saw all sorts of tropical fish, coral, a parrot fish, eels, barracudas, a human or seal skull, glowing/neon fish, turtles, and more!

I saw most of the same sea life at my second dive, which was the Pedernales shipwreck, an oil tanker that was torpedoed by a German WWII U-boat. Both dives were amazing, and I definitely recommend checking them out!



A November Quarry Dive at the Circleville (OH) Dive Center, Nov. 24, 2019. I met John Skobel when he moved from Cleveland to Columbus, OH, back in 2007, and attended a Columbus Sea Nags Dive Club meeting with his wife. We quickly became friends and have dived together ever since. Despite a bout with cancer, diagnosed a month after he retired, John is still diving strong. In fact, every time I am in or near Columbus, I try to make a dive with John. He's just a great dive buddy, simply the best.

As luck would have it, I made a sojourn to Sandusky, Ohio, in order to attend the annual Shipwrecks and Scuba Conference, a one-day affair put on by the Cleveland-



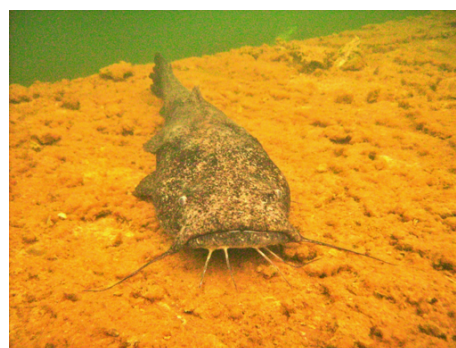
based Bay Area Divers, a well-known and storied Great Lakes wreck diving club, the day before. John and I met at the Circleville Dive Center the next morning to dive the South Quarry, one of our ritual dives. Fortunately, we caught a break in the weather and enjoyed a very beautiful peaceful dive.

As we descended into the quarry, a juvenile bass darted in front of us. Vis was around 10,' decent as far as John was concerned, given the murk he has had to deal with most of the fall from the bountiful rain and its

runoff. We cruised to all the normal places: the tub lady of the quarry, the Red Cross trailer, the Cessna fuselage, the motorboat, the car wrecks, Piper Cub trainer, and school bus before returning to the flatbed platform and beginning of our dive. Looking at each other, we decided to head in the opposite direction and continue the dive by stopping at the pool table to visit the remains of our dive buddy, who passed away in



Bonaire a few years back. The ashes that were deposited there have basically been washed away from the slight current that flows through the quarry from north to south. We continued the



dive, heading down past the catamaran to the southernmost platform, and found the toilet rat in his usual spot, turned toward the john boat/canoe and another submerged motorboat in a futile search for the elusive catfish that hide in the darkest recess before finishing our 42 minute dive in 42°F water. Regrettably, most of the critters we sought were in hiding though we did find a few more juvenile bass and some fat sunfish looking for handouts.

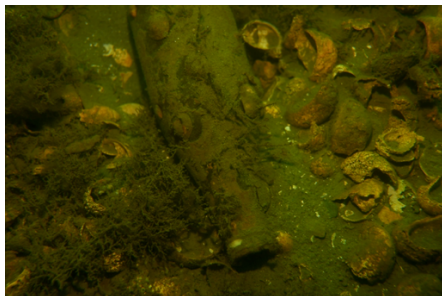
After the dive, John and I feasted on hot coffee and slices of the yummy banana bread his wife, Davie, had baked for us. Although I didn't have my underwater camera on hand (all underwater photos



are from previous dives), John and I took an iPhone selfie to commemorate our dive together. "Another one for the log book," as he would intone with a chuckle.

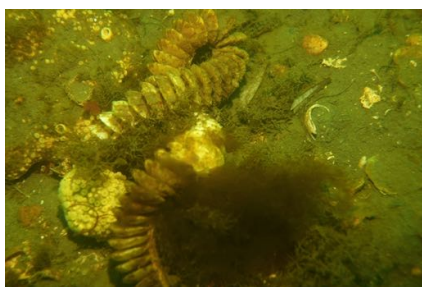
Gull Cove, Portsmouth RI, Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. I awoke at 5:30AM to assemble my gear for an early Saturday morning meet up at Gull Cove, at 830 AM, in Portsmouth RI. The previous day's weather had been marked





Bottle. Chuck, we needed you!

I was 2 lbs too light. I stayed in an area near the entry point, dove a grid pattern, and saw a couple of encrusted bottles, a number of spider crabs, including 2 feasting on a fish carcass. There was a large starfish, a Bay scallop or two, some orange-like sponge, fields of Boring sponge, lots of comb jellies, and a bottom literally coated with half-slipper snails. Additionally, a couple of oysters and three live whelks were spotted by my dive buddies, as well as a Knobbed Whelk egg case by all three of us.



by heavy winds from the east northeast and east, leaving pounding surf and stirred up visibility in the ocean front water column.

The Cove turned out to be a perfect dive choice with flat calm water and vis around 20'. The water temp was the same as last week's quarry dive, 42°F. Two of us dove drysuits, the other a heavy wetsuit. I became separated from the other two early on because it took me longer to get down in my



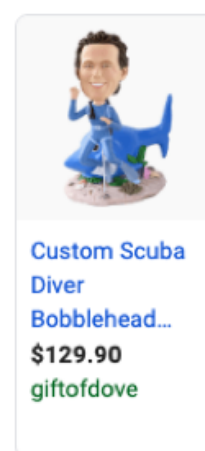
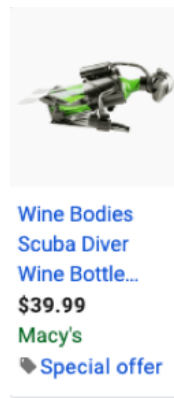
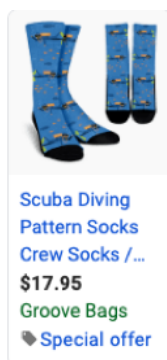
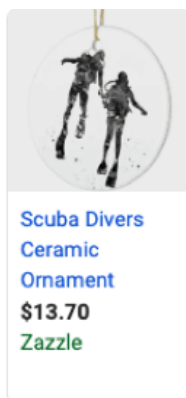
Spider crab (Top); Fish carcass (Above); Knobbed Whelk egg case (Lower left); Sea lettuce (Below)



We reconnected after the dive and had breakfast together in a small café before my two buds

headed back up north. I drove to Providence, half an hour away, to watch the Ohio State thumping of Michigan with the RI chapter of OSU alumni. A nice group to share the game and a few beers after a great dive morning with some wonderful dive buddies.

A FEW PARTING GIFTS FOR THE DIVER WHO HAS EVERYTHING



PARTING PHOTO *By Rob*



PARTING THOUGHT

Seasons Greetings to All and Happy New Year!



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